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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 103570
R 160814Z AUG 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5707
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC
USSAG NKP
13TH ADVON UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12715

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CB, TH
SUBJ: THANOM ON U.S. PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 15. FOLLOWING ARE HIS COMMENTS ON U.S. PRESENCE.

NISSAI: TWO QUESTIONS, ONE BY KHUN BANYAT OF THE "BANGKOK POST" AND THE OTHER BY KHUN PHUSDEE OF "THE NATION," ASK WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES AND FOR AID AFTER THE CESSATION OF BOMBING? SINCE THERE ARE AMERICAN BASES IN THAILAND, IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INTERESTED IN HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS MATTER WITH THAILAND? IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT ACTION WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE?
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THANOM: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE
UNITED STATES ARE CONTINUING STEADILY, BOTH REGARDING
THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES AND AID TO BE
GIVEN AFTER THE CESSATION OF BOMBING IN CAMBODIA,
THEREFORE NO STATEMENT CAN BE MADE YET ON PROGRESS
MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE BEING HELD. REGARDING
THE REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INTERESTED IN
HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS MATER WITH THAILAND, IT
IS A FACT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE HELD NEGOTIATIONS
AND CLOSE CONSULTATIONS CONSTANTLY AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
GLAD AND WILLING TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS. I MADE A STATEMENT
AND GAVE EXPLANATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AT A FORMER
PRESS CONFERCENCE.

REPORTER: TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THAT PROGRESS
HAS BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS? I MEAN, TOINBOUT WHAT
EXTENT HAS A SETTLEMENT BEEN REACHED, BECAUSE TODAY
IS THE LAST DAY FOR BOMBING IN CAMBODIA. AFTER THE
CESSATION OF BOMBING IS PUT IN FORECE, I FEEL THAT
BASES IN THAILAND WILL NOT HAVE ANY MEANING OR
SIGNIFICANCE. WHEN DO YOU THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON
THIS ISSUE WILL BE ENDED?

THANOM: I GAVE EXPLANATIONS REGARDING THIS
SUBJECT IN MY PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, AND I SAID
THAT AFTER THERE ARE CEASEFIRES...LOOK AT THE SITUATION
IN VIETNAM OR IN LAOS. THOUGH A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT
WAS SIGNED SOME TIME AGO, FIGHTING IS CONTINUING AND
REINFORCEMENTS ARE BEING SENT CONTINUALLY. IT IS
THEREFORE NECESSARY TO HAVE MILITARY FORCES IN READINESS
TO ENFORCE THAT CEASEFIRE UNDER THE AGREEMENT SIGNED.
OR SHOULD THERE BE VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE MILITARY
FORCES MIGHT HAVE TO BE USED TO HELP THE COUNTRY
AGAINST WHICH AGGRESSION IS COMMITTED. THIS IS WHY
I UNDERSTAND THAT MILITARY FORCES WILL MOST PROBABLY
NOT BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AT THIS PRELIMINARY STAGE.

REPORTER: WHEN DO YOU THINK THAT MILITARY FORCES
COULD BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN?

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THANOM: THAT HAS NOT BEEN NEGOTIATED YET BUT
I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR NEGOTIATIONS
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE HAVE BEEN HOLDING TALKS
REGULARLY IN THE PAST. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD
THROUGHOUT. AS I POINTED OUT IN MY FORMER PRESS
CONFERENCE, WE WANT AMERICA TO GIVE US AID IN THE
FORM OF WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS WHEN IT WITHDRAWS ITS
MILITARY FORCES. THIS SUBJECT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION

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AND IT WISHES TO KNOW WHAT KINDS OF WEAPONS WE NEED IN
AID FROM IT.

REPORTER: YOU SAID THAT B-52S WILL STOP BOMBING
TODAY. SHOULD THEY CONTINUE BEING STATIONED IN
THAILAND, IN WHAT WAYS WOULD THAT BENEFIT US? YOU
SAID YOU DO NOT THINK THERE WILL BE ANY WITHDRAWALS
AT THE START YET. DOES THAT INCLUDE BOTH B-52S AND
MILITARY FORCES?

THANOM: THE ONLY AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED
IN THAILAND AT PRESENT ARE AIR FORCE UNITS ONLY,
THRERFORE IF THEY ARE WITHDRAWN ONLY AIRFORCEMEN WILL
BE WITHDRAWN. BUT NO DEFINITE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
REACHED WHICH AIRFORCEMEN WILL BE WITHDRAWN AND FROM
WHERE. B-52S MIGHT CONTINUE BEING STATIONED HERE
FOR THE REASON I HAVE GIVEN ALREADY--TO BE A GUARANTEE
THAT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS WILL BE REALLY CONFORMED
TO. THIS WOULD NOT BENEFIT INDOCHINA ONLY BUT SHOULD
COMMUNISTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST OUR
COUNTRY THE U.S. MIGHT USE THESE B-52S TO HELP HALT
COMMBIST AGGRESSION FROM OUTSIDE. WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT
UNDER SEATO FOR AID TO BE GIVEN THAILAND, WHICH IS
A SEATO MEMBER NATION, SHOULD COMMUNISTS FROM OUTSIDE
COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST US. SOME OF THOSE PLANES MIGHT
BE WITHDRAWN AND NOT MANY MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE STATIONED HERE.
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, MARR, TH, CB, US, (THANOM KITTIKACHORN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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